

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111022
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO: AMB KIM
MEETS WITH SENATOR STEVENSON

1. SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFFER DAN SWILLINGER HAS BRIEFED DEPT ON THE LONG NURTURED MEETING MAY 1 BETWEEN SENATOR STEVENSON AND ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK TO DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO.
2. AMB. KIM REPORTED THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL WITH KIM DONG-JO, THE LATTER WAS PREPARED TO WRITE TO SENATOR STEVENSON AND PRESENT HIS SIDE OF EVENTS. HE CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT KIM WAS GUILTY OF NO WRONGDOING. AT NO TIME DID HE RAISE THE PROSPECT OF ANY TELEPHONE DIALOGUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 111022

3. SENATOR STEVENSON EMPHASIZED THE COMMITTEE'S NEED TO HAVE SOME STAFF CONVERSATION DIRECTLY WITH KIM DONG-JO SOMEWHERE. HE CITED SENATOR WEICKER'S RECENT RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMITTEE AS EVIDENCE OF THE NEED TO MOVE TO RESOLVE PENDING MATTERS IN FORTHRIGHT MANNER.
4. REFERRING TO THEIR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, IN WHICH

STEVENSON HAD LISTED FIVE PERSONS FROM WHOM THE COMMITTEE WISHED TO RECEIVE EVIDENCE, STEVENSON SAID IT HAD NOW BEEN CONCLUDED THAT IN ADDITION TO KIM DONG-JO THE ONLY PERSON STILL REQUIRED WAS PAK CH'ONG-SU.

5. AS FRIENDLY GESTURE, STEVENSON REFERRED TO RECENT PUBLICITY REGARDING FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE BLUE HOUSE, AND SAID THAT IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE AMBASSADOR HE WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE HIM AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE RECENT SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSIONS REGARDING BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ALLEGATIONS. AMB. KIM PROMISED TO LET HIM KNOW.

6. SWILLINGER EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT THAT KIM DID NOT EVEN RAISE THE PROSPECT OF DIRECT TELEPHONE DIALOGUE WITH KIM DONG-JO WHEN STEVENSON STRESSED THAT DIRECT DISCUSSION WAS NECESSARY.

7. COMMENT: KIM SEEMS TO HAVE OFFERED ABSOLUTE MINIMUM IN MEETING WITH STEVENSON. WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS PULL-BACK AND ESSENTIAL DECISION THAT NO AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE, OR MERELY TACTICAL PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATING WITH JAWORSKI FIRST, WE DO NOT YET KNOW, BUT KIM'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW-UP WITH JAWORSKI IN FURTHER DIALOGUE DOES NOT LOOK OPTIMISTIC FOR A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME. ADMITTEDLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 111022

THE SENATE'S HOLDING OUT FOR STILL ANOTHER WITNESS PROBABLY DISCOURAGES ANY MAXIMUM EFFORT ON THE KOREAN SIDE.

3. WE BEGIN TO WONDER IF, IN VIEW OF RECENT EVENTS WHICH LOOK FAVORABLE TO THE ROKG, A CONSENSUS MAY BE BUILDING IN SEOUL TO HANG FIRM AND WEATHER THIS OUT WITHOUT FINAL COMPROMISE ON ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO. SUCH A PROSPECT IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ROKG MAY APPRECIATE. ALTHOUGH THE VOLCANO HAS BEEN QUIET, INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE PRESSURES CAN QUICKLY ERUPT THE CONGRESS AGAIN INTO AN ADAMANT ANTI-KOREAN POSTURE. PL-480, EX-IM LOANS FOR NUCLEAR POWER, AND THE DOLS 800 MILLION TRANSFER AUTHORITY ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TOTAL VICTIMS TO SUCH AN OUTCOME, WITH SOME SMALL WHITTILING OF FMS CREDIT APPROPRIATIONS ALSO DESIGNED TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DONE MUCH MENDING IN RECENT MONTHS, SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY SHATTER MOST OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.
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